

LATIN AMERICA

Lima Conference of Left-of-Center Parties Calls for United Action: A conference of left-of-center parties which met in Lima from 1 to 4 August issued declarations calling for united action by democratic Latin Americans to improve their political, economic, social, and cultural life. The parties represented were Costa Rica's National Liberation party, Venezuela's Democratic Action, Bolivia's Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, Paraguay's Febreristas, and Peru's APRA.

The declarations call for additional intervention by the state and a system of progressive nationalization of sources of production and services essential to the economy. The program rejects US "economic imperialism" and Soviet "imperialism" alike, since the former is considered a source of many of Latin America's present difficulties and the latter involves alien control. United action is called for to combat existing tyrannies and wrest control from oligarchies, whose control has been maintained in large part, according to the declaration, through US support. Finally, sympathy is expressed for the ideals of the Cuban revolution and for the right of the Cuban people to direct their own affairs, but the belief is expressed that the Cuban revolution should progress within the representative, democratic system of government.

While most high-ranking leaders of the parties represented would probably have been willing to subscribe to a stronger anti-Castro statement, all face significant pro-Castro strength among the rank and file of their parties--particularly among the younger members.

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

Page 9

